

The Wobbly Oscillator

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

March 2019 Volume 49 Number 3



March Dinner Meeting at Simon's Moved to Wednesday 3/13

From The Prez

CARS Hamvention Bus

Every year I say how lucky we are to have the most spectacular meeting of radio amateurs in our own backyard. Hams travel from all over the world to get to the Hamvention. They incur major expenses for transportation, lodging and food. All we have to do is hop on the CARS magic bus and be whisked away to "Ham Heaven." The bus leaves Saturday morning and returns that evening bookending a fantastic day of looking at the latest items manufacturers have produced, talking with vendors and representatives of organizations, scouring the flea market for bargains, attending forums, mingling with amateurs, meeting old friends and making new ones.

Taking the CARS bus is the easy and fun way to get to the Hamvention. The biggest feedback item we always hear is how enjoyable it is to ride with a group of friends sharing the experience and conversation. And once again this year, the cost has stayed the same at a reasonable \$50.00. Unlike most everything else, we have not increased the fare in quite a few years. I will be taking reservations and collecting the money this year. Pay me at one of our meetings or send the money to me at 5789 East Law Rd., Valley City, OH 44280.

The Hamvention bus is chartered for the convenience of members and fellow hams. It is not intended to be a money making venture. However most of the time we break even or make a few bucks. So if you have never participated in a club fund raiser, this is your opportunity to do so. If we end up profiting a bit, the proceeds will support club activities.

March Dinner Meeting

DATE CHANGED TO WEDNESDAY MARCH 13th

(continued next page)

Once again, the hospitable staff at Simon's Restaurant and Delicatessen will roll out the red carpet to CARS members and host us for our March meeting. Simon's has been a popular spot for us to meet. The excellent food is reasonably priced. There is a large selection and a wide variety of prices. The room we have is accommodating and the service is outstanding.

We have the room reserved at 6:00 for dinner and the meeting will begin at its normal time at 7:30. For the millionth time I must emphasize dinner is optional. You do not have to have dinner to attend the meeting. Some members just have a cup of coffee or a side dish. I have come to dinner meetings and for budgetary reasons have only had water. The main thing is, it's up to you. Please don't skip the meeting because, for whatever reason, you don't want to have dinner.

Hope to see you all at the March meeting at Simon's.

73, Toby, WT8O

**Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society
February 12th 2019 Business Meeting Minutes**

The CARS membership was called to order by President Toby Kolman, WT8O, at 7:32 PM on the 12th day of the month at the Busch Community room. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and introductions were made by the members and guests. The January 8th 2019 Business meeting minutes were approved as they appeared in the February 2019 *Wobbly Oscillator*.

Bob, W8GC, gave the report on the treasury balance. Bob also reminded the group to please pay your club dues. The rates are posted on the club website under the "Join CARS" button.

You may also renew your ARRL dues through CARS. See Bob for details. The club receives a portion on dues renewals as well as new members.

Toby, WT8O, reminded the meeting attendees to please keep your information current for the club database. Also, make sure you sign-in on the meeting sign-in sheet as well. Toby also asked that the lower parking spaces be left available for members who have problems walking.

Toby mentioned to get your presentation ideas to Bill, KD8QBB. Bill is the presentation coordinator and is in need of NEW presentation topics.

Toby also asked the group if anyone was interested in handling the soft drink duties for the meeting. Ed, WB8ROK, is retiring from the position. Ron, K8RJH, is interested with Toby assisting for the time being.

Toby is still looking for *W.O.* contributions being articles and or pictures. If you also have items for sale, there is a section in the *W.O.* for items to sell. Submit them to Toby so the items can be added to the *W.O.*

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The March dinner meeting location will once again be Simon's in Brecksville. The address is 7770 Chippewa Rd. (Rt 82).

Toby is looking for (1) NEW Net Control Operator. Gary, NI8Z, received his Net Control certificate from Toby this evening. Gary and George, K8KR, are retiring from Net Control Operations.

Mark, WJ8WM, mentioned that the ARRL offers insurance for repairs or replacement of your equipment. The link to the ARRL Insurance web site is <https://arrlinsurance.com>. There is an option there to apply for equipment coverage.

Larry, N8OWS, had nothing to report.

Bob, K8MD, mentioned that the Cleveland Marathon is still looking for volunteers. The next Cuyahoga County ARES meeting is March 10th, 2019 at CECOMS in Bedford. The address is 88 Center Road in Bedford. The meeting starts at 2:00 PM.

Toby thanked the Refreshment Committee for all their work.

Dave, KD8ACO, added that the next CARS license class will be Thursday, February 28th, 2019. The location is Seven Hills City Hall. Classes run each Thursday at 6:30 PM. The classes will run through April 11th with the VE test session that evening. The Technician class question pool changed as of July 1st, 2018. CARS has the NEW question pool available for Technician class students. The General class question pool will expire as of June 30th, 2019. There are 11 people currently signed up for the classes.

Metro, W8MET, stated that the next VE session is March 10, 2019.

There were 27 members and guests in attendance this evening.

Mark, KC8FQV, won the 50/50 raffle.

The Mansfield Hamfest is February 17th at the Richland County Fairgrounds. Dayton Hamvention tickets are on sale as well.

The program tonight was a discussion on the FCC bulletin issued in September concerning "Chinese Radios".

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Submitted by Larry Shimerka, N8OWS.



Gary, NI8Z, receives his 2018 Net Controller award and is congratulated by WT8O for his many years of outstanding service as a NCS.

VE Session

The next VE testing session will be held Sunday, March 10th, at 9:00 AM at the Old Elmwood Recreation Center, 6200 Pete Wisniesky Parkway, Independence 44131. Directions and a map are on the CARS website homepage. For information or an appointment please contact Metro, W8MET, at 216-520-1320 or metro351@sbcglobal.net. As always, walk-ins are welcome.

Peep from the Veep
Mark, WJ8WM

Many of us have time constraints and many commitments. I certainly do. I haven't spent a lot of time on the radio or made many of the nets lately. But the one activity that I rarely miss is the monthly meeting.

I enjoy seeing everyone. I may not always be able to sit at chat. However, I try to at least say hello or shake hands. I truly like being in the room with the like-minded, friendly group we are. I know that the business part of the meeting may run a little long sometimes but I think it is important to share that information. It helps to get member feedback on what's going on and where we are going.

For me the best part of the meeting is the program! I enjoy learning about any facet of amateur radio. I like the practical demonstrations, I like the video lessons, and I like the DXpeditions documentaries. There has not been a meeting I haven't learned something or walked away thinking THAT was cool.

I strongly encourage any ham reading the WO who hasn't made it to a meeting or has not been to a meeting lately to come check it on the second Tuesday of the month.

Dues Notice

One last call for 2019 dues.
Don't let your CARS membership expire.

Dues can be paid in 3 ways:

Online by sending the funds via PayPal to
w8gc@2cars.org
PLEASE USE PERSONAL OPTION.

You can also mail a check to:
CARS
7395 Brecksville Rd.
Independence, OH 44131

Pay in person at any CARS meeting.

Dues are \$26.00 per year for regular membership.
Each additional family member is \$16.00.

If you are 60 yrs. or older, your dues are only
\$18.00 per year.

CARS will offer assistance to anyone having
a hardship.

Please let us know if you have a hardship or
know a member who needs help.

March Birthdays

Mike Cegelski, KSEHP	3/2/42
Dave Rickon, NF80	3/3/47
Blaine Coleman, KASKPB	3/18/46
Dave Karow, ACSTN	3/18/60
Terry Pillatt, KB8DTC	3/18/46
Pam Miller, KC0DSR	3/24
Chuck Mehozonek, KSCVM	3/27/56
Simpson Huston, NSUZF	3/29/48
Mark Moro, WJ8WM	3/30/62
Bruce Bacik, N8DJX	3/31/42
Kim Balach, KD8FTU	3/31/88

Member Profile

Gary, NI8Z

How did you become interested in ham radio?

I met Jim, K8ARY, at Engineers Week in 1977 in Toledo, Ohio. We had both attended the University of Toledo at the same time during the early 1970s. We were in engineering classes for a few semesters. I graduated with a BSEE in 1974. He graduated then began working for Mercy Hospital in an Industrial Engineering capacity. We were both in our late twenties and had served in the military. He was in the Air Force as a teletype repairman stationed on Guam. I was a radioman on a naval destroyer, the USS Morton, DD948, from 1960-1963. We both attended college on the GI Bill. I considered myself a professional communicator who had worked for the US Embassy in the Philippines and the Embassy in Monrovia, Liberia. Jim was a General class ham and told me about his home teletype setup. He wanted to become an Advanced class operator and talked me into taking the Ham test up in Detroit with him. I passed the General class exam at 20 wpm CW and became N8BVD.

What made you decide to take the test?

I enjoy radio communications. I thought it would be an interesting hobby to pursue since I was knowledgeable with electronics and radio operation. With Jim as a friend and willing to mentor me, it was almost a no brainer. I had experienced the value of amateur radio, when in Africa one of my co-workers made a phone patch contact for me to my mother-in-law in Port Clinton.

When did you get your license?

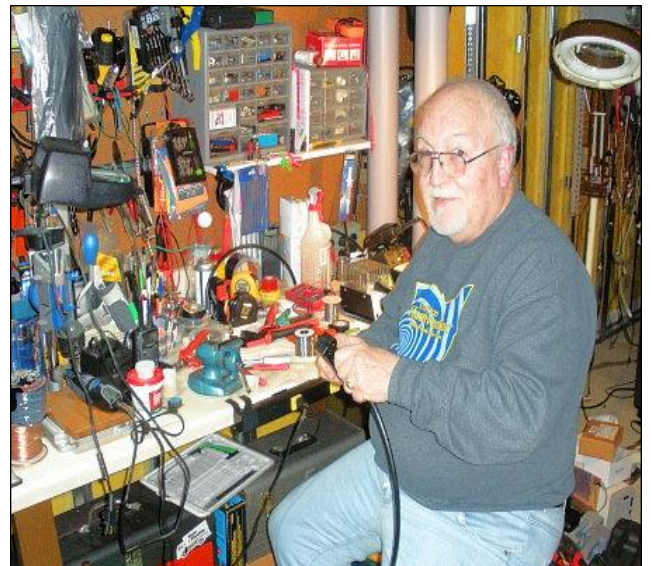
In 1978 in Detroit, I upgraded to Extra in 1981 and became NI8Z

What is your "Go to" HF station?

I have options. It depends on what I want to use and the mode I plan to use to communicate. For RTTY, I use the ICOM 7600; for DIGITAL it is a Flex 3000; for SSB it's the Yaesu FTDX5000 and for Field Day the Kenwood TS450S. Fortunately, I can use any one of these for any of those purposes. However, the key is which antenna is needed for the job. As we all should know, the antenna is the answer to any communicating success.

What is your mobile set-up?

I have a dual band 50 watt Yaesu 2m/440cm radio in my Mazda CX-5 with a dual band mobile antenna.



Gary graciously makes up a coax jumper cable for a fellow CARS member in his well equipped workshop. Naw! That couldn't be a halo.

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What are your favorite on air activities?

My main and all-time favorite is working DX stations using RTTY or CW. However, it's without a doubt working an ATNO. DXers know what that means. Contesting is fun especially the RTTY roundup in January. Field Day is enjoyable. I like doing the School Club Round up when I can. Recently the new digital mode FT8 has gained my interest. Working WAS on 30 and 40 has taken some of my time. 30 meters is complete now switching to 80 meters and even 160 meters for laughs and giggles. My 160 antenna needs repair.

Why did you join C.A.R.S.?

I was invited to join by two past members, Carl Beduhn and Stan Haas. Both were VEs and I met them at the AES store in Willowick back in 1993. I had just retired from Centerior Energy and was looking to get back into AR. They invited me to join. I was not a member of any club and had been off the air ever since I moved to Independence. So I thought I would check it out.

What would you like to see C.A.R.S. do to improve?

I have had an interest in seeing or forming a club station for C.A.R.S. It could prove to be valuable to members who need mentoring. It could be a place to have contest activity, training, learn about new equipment and software. We could even do VE testing and maybe run classes. A club station could propel C.A.R.S. to be at the top of the heap in Cleveland and maybe Cuyahoga County.

I think members should indicate their AR activity. Announce the contest worked or special event that was participated in or the Hamfest attended or equipment purchased, something indicating activity other than just coming to the meeting.

Final comment: is anyone using the new digital repeater? Maybe once a month a net is run on it to see how it's working and who is working it. Also, someone needs to get the clock/time reset; it's embarrassing to continually hear the wrong time.

CARS Repeaters

146.820

443.825

444.75

PL Tone 110.9

PL Tone 131.8

PL Tone 131.8

Main Site – Brecksville

Digital Yaesu Fusion

Stand-alone Not Linked

Receive Only Site – Brunswick

Linked to 146.82 Repeater

Shaker Hts.

Receive Only Site – Shaker Hts.

Brecksville

HERE'S SOME STUFF...

What's up with those 'Smart Speakers' (Amazon Echo, Apple Home, Google Home)? I always thought these devices were another step towards the future, and that they could prove to be very helpful in certain circumstances. However, I never considered buying one for myself. I just didn't see a need. Then... I received an Amazon Echo, as a gift.

Ok, now I have this thing, what to do with it. Well, first I have to get it setup, and see what it can do. Already having an Amazon account, setting it up is very easy. Basically, get the Alexa app onto your smart phone, and plug in the Echo device. (Okay, there are a few more steps, but nothing to write home about).

The Alexa app requires access to your contacts on your smartphone, and Echo connects to the Alexa Voice Service. As a stand-alone device, the Echo is a hands-free speaker you use to play music, provide information, news, sports scores, weather, and (with access to your contacts), make phone calls and send and receive messages. All you have to do is ask. Okay, that's pretty cool, but...if that's it, then what's the big deal?

Well, that's not all folks! I won't go into all the details in this article, but I will give a little rundown of capabilities I use. Firstly, I enjoy learning about new technologies, and keeping my mind active. So, I experimented with this device, to find out what it was capable of doing. I bought a couple smart bulbs (LED'S), and used the device to control these lights. ("Alexa, turn on desk lamp", "Alexa, turn off stairwell"). Yes, kinda lazy, but at the same time, kinda cool!

Until recently, had Uverse and a surround sound system for TV. I wondered if I could control the entire system using the Echo, and found a way to accomplish just that. I added a gadget, and could turn on surround sound, Uverse cable box, and the TV just by saying "Alexa, turn on TV". I could also change channels and adjust the volume just using my voice.

I picked up a few more smart light bulbs, and an Echo dot (a smaller smart speaker). Use the Echo to turn TV system off, turn on stairwell light, and turn on light in bedroom, just by saying "Alexa, good night". I have the Echo dot in bedroom, so I tell that device to turn off stairwell and bedroom lights. I also set up routines that turn on front porch and back door lights every night. I also have routines to turn certain lights on and off at random times, so house appears occupied when we are out of town for a few days. I've recently gotten an Echo Show, and use that to make video calls to family in another state.

Yes, these things are no big deal, and may even seem 'stupid' to some. However, it never hurts to experiment with new technologies, and figure out ways these technologies can be of benefit. If anyone has questions about this, feel free to ask!

73

Mike Kemmett, KD8OUE

March Net Shed

MAR	6	N8OWS
MAR	13	KD8ACO
MAR	20	WT8O
MAR	27	AC8NW

Nets are run every Wednesday at
9:00 PM on 146.820 (PI 110.9)

Greetings from the Tech Committee Scott, AC8NW

I know there has not been much to report lately, but that should soon be changing. A misunderstanding with the Mayor's office in Brecksville has been cleared up, and we do have necessary permissions for the building our main repeater is in. The Committee now has access to the building, and preparations are being made to work on the repeater controllers, and to clean up some cabling connecting the various components of the system. We need to arrange for an internet connection at the site, so that our long awaited Allstar/ Echolink node can be connected and tested. Hopefully, more news on the repeater front will be forthcoming.

I'm sure a lot of you H.F operators have noticed that with the ever deepening Solar Minimum, band conditions have been lousy, on average, and we are not even at the bottom. Many times I have checked on what's happening and heard nothing on the bands, especially higher ones (20 to 10 meters).

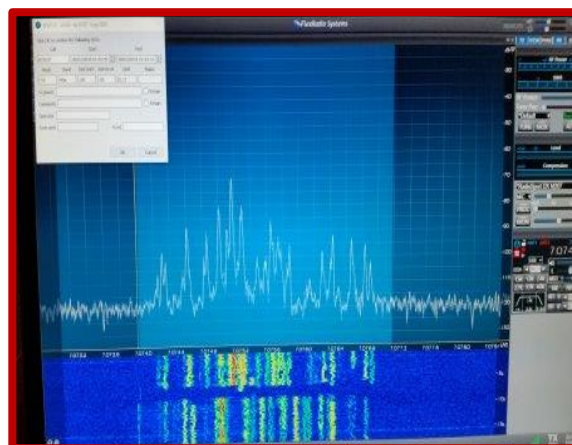
I have been playing lately with a newer digital mode called FT-8. My father and founding member of the club, NW9H, formerly K8AJG, introduced me to it last year. Often you can tune around a band and hear nothing, or see nothing, if you have a band scope or panadapter, in the portions of the band you are used to operating in, especially SSB. But if you tune way down to the bottom of the band, you can hear some strange noises, and if you have a band scope and narrow down your passband, you will see many signals of 50 Hz width, all crammed into a 3Khz passband. These are FT8 signals, and I think it is a fun mode to work. The exchanges take much less time than older digital modes, like JT-65 and such. My Dad has had a blast with it, and is close to or has DXCC and WAS on that mode.

It is a "souncard mode" like the others, but is not terribly difficult to set up, especially if you already have an interface that you got, and have not used much because you didn't really like other digital modes. And more especially if you are fortunate to have a 6000 series Flex Radio, with its Digital Audio Exchange. That makes everything simple, with no interface and cabling needed.

You can find all of the free software for this mode, as well as the operating guide, on:

www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjttx.html.

There are YouTube video tutorials as well. I have included a couple of pictures of what the WSJT-X user interface looks like, and what you see on a Flex Radio display. I encourage you to try it; I think you will enjoy it.



That's all for now.
73, Scott, AC8NW

RadioSport

Contests

Mar 2 0000-Mar 3 2359 **ARRL International DX Contest, SSB** 1.8-28 Ph www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
Exchange: W/VE: RS, SP. Non-W/VE: RS, power

Mar 10 0000-0400 **North American Sprint, RTTY** 3.5-14 Dig ncjweb.com
Exchange: Other station's call, your call, serial, name, SPC

Special Events Stations

Mar 1-Mar 14 0000-0000 **W5T** Cleburne, TX **Battleship Texas 105th Birthday** 14.225 14.045 7.225 7.045
www.grz.com/db/kc5nx

Mar 9 1700-2359 **NI6IW** San Diego, CA **Launching of USS Midway** 14.320 7.250 PSK31 on 14.070
QSL USS Midway (CV-41) COMEDTRA, 910 N. Harbor Dr., San Diego, CA 92101

State QSO Parties

Mar 9 1500-Mar 10 2100 **Oklahoma QSO Party** 3.5-50 CW Ph Dig idahoarrl.info/qsoparty
Exchange: RS(T), county or SPC (State or Province)

Mar 9 1900-Mar 10 1900 **Idaho QSO Party** 1.8-28 CW Ph Dig www.w0aa.org
Exchange: RS(T), county or SPC

Mar 10 1800-Mar 11 0100 **Wisconsin QSO Party** All Bands CW Ph Dig warac.org/wqp/wqp/htm
Exchange: RS(T), county or SPC

Mar 16 1400-Mar 17 0200 **Louisiana QSO Party** 1.8-144 CW Ph Dig laqp.louisianacontestclub.org
Exchange: RS(T), parish or SPC

Mar 16 1400-Mar 17 2359 **Virginia QSO Party** All Bands CW Ph Dig qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party
Exchange: Serial, county or SPC

Sampling from QST March 2019 Pg. 88 and 98, see QST for many more events.

All times in GMT ZULU time

The *Wobbly Oscillator* is a publication of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 31264, Independence, Ohio, 44131-0264. Articles from this publication may be reprinted in any ham radio publication, provided that credit is given to this publication and the author, if known. All submissions should be emailed to: wt8o@att.net by the end of the month for publication in the next month's issue.

**Please reserve and pay for your
“2019 Hamvention” ride to Xenia, OH
Bus Trip ASAP.**

**Saturday May 18, 2019 CARS is
again sponsoring a Bus trip to the
“2019 Hamvention” 3rd time now at
the Green County Fairgrounds,
Xenia, OH.**



*Every amateur radio operator in the world
probably dreams about going to the
Hamvention (formerly Dayton Hamvention) at least once. Please join us in 2019, it
is an incredible event, 3rd year in this Venue and offers something for everyone.*

**The Bus trip will cost \$50.00 dollars per person, we will not stop for
breakfast on the way down, but there may be a fast food stop on the
way home. You are responsible for both your food and Hamvention
tickets. Go to <http://www.hamvention.org/tickets.php> to order your
tickets. **The Bus is wheel-chair accessible****

***Stop 1: The 56 passenger bus will leave promptly at 5:00 am from the Kmart
parking lot at the intersection of Engle and Bagley Roads, in Middleburg Heights,
Engle Road is 1/4 mile west of I-71, Kmart is behind the Gas station. Vehicles will
be safe, there is security.***

***Stop 2: The bus will also pickup riders at I-71 & Rt 303 at the SE corner of the
Kmart parking lot and will depart for Xenia at approximately 5:30 am.***

***When ordering tickets please tell us which stop you will be at,
plus we need your email info, name, call and phone number.***

Bus tickets must be purchased and paid for in advance.

***If you have any questions please see Toby WT8O at a CARS meeting or
call him at 440-525-6109. Checks must be made out to CARS and
mailed to: Toby Kolman, 5789 East Law Rd., Valley City, OH 44280
attn. Xenia bus or email: wt8o@att.net***

73, Toby, WT8O

CARS 2019 Officers & Committees

Audit

WJ8WM ** WT8O, KD8OUE

Audio/Video

AC8NW **

ARRL Liaison

WJ8WM **

Awards

W8GC ** WT8O

Christmas party & Summer Picnic

KD8SCV **, WJ8WM, K8ARP

Club Photographer

N8OWS **

Field Day

WT8O **, WJ8WM, K8RGI, K8ARP, KD8SCV, AC8NW, AC8TN, N8BBB food

50/50

WT8O

License classes

KD8ACO **, WT8O, K8SHB

Media Representative

KD8SCV

Membership

WT8O ** KE8IHP

NET

WT8O **

Newsletter

WT8O ** 440-525-6109
wt8o@att.net

Programs at Meetings

KD8QBB **

Property Custodian's

KB8DTC records, W8GC equipment

Public Services

K8ARP ** KD8FTS

QSL Manager - W8HBI, W8BM

WB8N **

Refreshments at Meetings & Picnic

KD8SCV ** pop, AI8Y ** coffee,
NW8X ** Donuts

Scholarship

W8GC ** WJ8WM, KD8SCV, N8OWS, WB8N

Sunshine (welfare)

Andy, KD8SCV ** 440-886-0723

Technical

AC8NW ** N8OVW, WJ8WM, KD8ACO, KD8RKF, K8MD, KB8DTC

VE Exams

Metro, W8MET ** 216-520-1320

Web Master/e-mail

W8GC **

** chairman or co-chairman

2019 Officers

PRESIDENT

Toby Kolman WT8O 440-525-6109
wt8o@att.net

VICE-PRESIDENT

Mark Moro, WJ8WM 216-661-0342

SECRETARY

Larry Shimerka, N8OWS 216-647-2484

TREASURER:

Bob Check W8GC 216-524-1750

Board Members & License Trustees

Board Chairman

Andy Evridge KD8SCV 440-886-0723

even year executive board 2 year term

K8SHB, KB8DTC, KD8OUE

odd year executive board 2 year term

KD8SCV, K8ARP, WB8ROK

License trustee K8ZFR

WT8O

License trustee

W8HBI, W8BM,
W8GC



December 15, 2018